PRESIDENT: I would like the question to be investigated. The Dewan of Cochin may be told that the question was discussed here in the House. But I may say at once that Mr. Dixon told us that in spite of his efforts, the people would not grow tapioca and that without tapioca from Travancore the position of the people of Cochin would be very difficult. Therefore he wanted merchants of Cochin to come here and buy tapioca from Travancore which we declined to allow, as it might lead to abuses. We said that we would supply tapioca to Cochin but that supply was based on the hypothesis that Cochin does not grow tapioca on any large scale.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any quantity was not sent to Cochin?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: A certain amount in excess of the prescribed quota might have gone.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether it is impossible to raise the price?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: May I just point out that at Chengannur, I made certain enquiries with the cultivators of tapioca. There were six of them and they all told me that the price which has been fixed was very reasonable.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member whether tapioca is not being sold there at chs. 1-4 per pound?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That is profiteering.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any action has been taken against them?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Instructions have been issued in the matter.

Navika Thozhilali Sanghom.

38. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Navika Thozhilali Sanghom submitted a memorandum to Government two months back regarding the grievances of the workers;

(*b*) whether a deputation sought permission to meet the Dewan on these matters;

(*c*) whether the Government sent any reply to this and if so, when; and

(*d*) the nature of the reply?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes—to (*a*) on 18-12-1943 and to (*b*) on 7-1-1944.

(*d*) A reply was given that the Dewan would be glad to see the deputation on 9-1-1944. The deputation did not, however, meet the Dewan.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know when a letter posted from here on the 7th will reach Quilon?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: On the 8th, Sir.

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MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDNAN NAIR: May I know whether the interview was not fixed on the 9th of January?.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether the letter was not worded that the Dewan would however have no objection to meet the deputation.....

PRESIDENT: It was deliberately worded like that by me. The Navika Thozhilali Sanghom had put forward, prior to the appointment of a special officer, certain requests. The Special Officer was appointed to deal with all questions and as it was considered that if a senior officer was appointed he would be listened to by everybody in the State. If a man gets Rs. 250, he will not listen to a man getting Rs. 249, and they would not co-operate. It was found that there was a certain amount of that spirit in various offices. At all events, people were wanting in co-operation. Therefore a senior officer whom the subordinates of the Excise, the Police and other departments would submit to without grumbling, was appointed. The Navika Thozhilali Sanghom had raised certain questions relating to the boatmen. Those questions could be dealt with most satisfactorily by the officer, because those questions relate to very important matters on which the further policy has to be laid down. Therefore it was thought that after the appointment of this officer, the Navika Thozhilali Sanghom may not desire to see the Dewan. As a matter of fact I received a letter from Mr. Janardanan Nair saying that he did not want to see the Dewan because of the appointment of the Special Officer.

To the Chief Secretary.

"Your letter R. O C. No. 18757/43/C. F. S. dated the 7th January 1944, intimating that the Dewan will have no objection to receive the deputation. With reference to the same I have the honour to inform you that in view of the Press Note issued by the Government on 19-5-119 appointing a Senior Officer to go into the grievances of the workers, the deputation will prefer to wait on the Dewan after conducting the necessary negotiations with the new Special Officer. Moreover the letter permitting us to meet the Dewan was received only to-day afternoon though the request was made two months back. As it is impracticable to collect together all the members of the deputation in so short a time the opportunity may be postponed".

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: I am afraid that there might be the complaint that after getting permission to see the Dewan we did not go and see the Dewan.

PRESIDENT: It will only be a historical fact that the deputation did not meet the Dewan. There is no dissatisfaction involved.

Stock of Salt.

39 ***MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of the total stock of salt in all the factories till the end of 1118 Thai Pani;

(*b*) whether they received representations for the sanction of Puratasi Pani in salt factories; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, whether orders have been passed on those representations?

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